

## Warden Message

July 30, 2009

Dear Warden and/or Registrant:

The U.S. Embassy and Consulate General in Ecuador wish to inform American citizens visiting or resident in Ecuador of the continuing problem of counterfeit U.S. dollars circulating within Ecuador. We remind American citizens to check your currency carefully when leaving any banking institution or private business within Ecuador. Recently, we've received reports of counterfeit bills being dispensed from ATMs within Ecuador.

Before leaving the window of a banking institution, we recommend inspecting each bill for accuracy, wear and tear, and counterfeiting. If you discover a counterfeit bill while still at the banking institution's window, inform the cashier and, normally, they will exchange the bill. However, if you depart without inspecting your currency, it will be difficult to prove that you received the bill from that particular institution.

Below are tips to spot and determine a counterfeit bill:

*Portrait – The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat.*

*Water Marks – In each of the new U.S. bills, there are distinctive water markings imbedded into the paper. These markings are of the same image that corresponds to the denomination on that bill. This is one of the most difficult details for a counterfeiter to re-produce.*

For additional tips on detecting counterfeit bills, please visit the U.S. Treasury's website on the subject at: [http://www.ustreas.gov/usss/money\\_detect.shtml](http://www.ustreas.gov/usss/money_detect.shtml)

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Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration website](#), and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively, <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov>.

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593 2 398 5000 X3800. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov>